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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MAN INDICTED AND ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING  
DISABLED VIETNAM VETERAN**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that ROBERT JOHN McCARTHY, 55, of Sacramento was arrested yesterday in San Francisco after a federal grand jury in Sacramento returned an indictment last week charging McCARTHY with four counts of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to obtain disability benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The indictment alleges that McCARTHY assumed the identity of a Vietnam veteran to obtain service-related compensation and medical benefits from the VA. The veteran whose identity McCARTHY stole served in the United States Army from 1967-1970. The indictment further alleges that McCARTHY never served in the military and was not entitled to VA benefits. As a result of this scheme, McCARTHY received benefits in excess of \$300,000, dating back to 1990.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Norman Y. Wong, who is prosecuting the case, if McCARTHY is convicted, he faces a maximum of 5 years imprisonment on the first three mail fraud charges in the indictment, and twenty years imprisonment on the fourth mail fraud charges. In addition, he faces a fine of up to \$250,000 on each charge.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and McCARTHY is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is the product of an investigation by the San Francisco Resident Agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division, Western Field Office.

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